

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OOLOGY OF THE AUSTRO-
MALAYAN AND PACIFIC REGIONS.

By A. J. NORTH.

Under this heading I purpose to describe the eggs of such species from the above-named regions, as I may consider of sufficient interest to Oologists; such will necessarily be from various sources, and in the present instances I am indebted to the courtesy of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, the Hon. Wm. Macleay, and Messrs. Ramsay Bros. of Dobroyde, for access to their collections.

STRIX LULU, *Peel.*

This egg was obtained by Mr. Boyd at Ovalau; it is similar in form to that of the Australian species, *S. delicatula*, pure white, shell slightly rough. Length, 1.53×1.22 inch.

MACROPTERYX MYSTACEA, *Less.*

A single egg of this species taken at New Britain by Mr. Parkinson, is oval in form, pure white, shell smooth, but without any gloss; long axis 1.3 inch, short axis 0.83 inch. The parent birds were also procured.

MEROPS ORNATUS, *Lath.*

Specimens of this bird together with the eggs procured at New Britain by Mr. Parkinson, are similar to the Australian forms, differing only in their smaller admeasurements. Eggs rounded, white and glossy. An average egg measures—long axis 0.85 inch; short axis 0.77 inch.

HALCYON SACRA, *Gmel.*

This bird was found by Mr. J. A. Boyd, breeding freely at Ovalau, tunnelling in the nests of the white ants. Eggs five in number for a sitting, globular in form, pure white, the texture of

the shell being fine, but without any gloss. Length (A), $1\cdot07 \times 0\cdot93$ inch ; (B), $1 \text{ inch} \times 0\cdot87$ inch ; (C), $1\cdot13 \times 0\cdot91$ inch ; (D), $1\cdot1 \times 0\cdot92$ inch ; (E), $1\cdot03 \times 0\cdot88$ inch.

LALAGE TERAT, *Bodd.*

Nest similar to that of the Australian species, *L. tricolor*. Eggs two in number for a sitting, of a deep bluish-green, streaked all over with irregularly-shaped markings of wood-brown, and light purplish-brown, a few nearly obsolete clouded blotches of the latter colour appearing beneath the surface of the shell. Length (A), $0\cdot87 \times 0\cdot67$ inch ; (B), $0\cdot86 \times 0\cdot67$ inch. Taken at Ovalau by Mr. Boyd.

PACHYCEPHALA ICTEROIDES, *Peel.*

This species was found breeding in the New Hebrides by Mr. J. A. Boyd. The eggs are remarkably handsome, being of a rich cream colour, with a band of large irregularly-shaped confluent blotches of rich umber-brown around the centre, and obsolete markings of the same colour appearing beneath the surface of the shell; the remaining portion of the surface is sparingly dotted with a paler tint. Length $1\cdot09 \times 0\cdot75$ inch.

MYIAGRA RUFIVENTRIS, *Elliot.*

A nest of this species taken by Mr. Boyd at Ovalau, is cup-shaped in form, outwardly composed of thin wiry grasses, and beautifully ornamented on the outside with lichens; there is a slight lining of fibrous roots inside. Exterior diameter two inches and a quarter, depth one inch and a-half; internal diameter one inch and seven eighths, depth one inch. Eggs two in number for a sitting, white with a zone of light purplish-brown and greyish lilac spots encircling the larger apex of the egg. Some of the markings appear as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length (A), $0\cdot75 \times 0\cdot57$ inch ; (B), $0\cdot75 \times 0\cdot58$ inch.

PIEZORHYNCHUS CHALYBAEOCEPHALUS, *Garn.*

These eggs, together with the birds, were procured by Mr. Parkinson when on a collecting tour in New Britain; they are two to three in number for a sitting, oval in form and rather

pointed at the smaller end, of a pale greenish-grey becoming darker towards the larger end, where they are encircled with a well-defined zone of small black spots, and clouded slaty-grey blotches, the latter colour appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length (A), 0.86×0.61 inch ; (B), 0.87×0.57 inch ; (C), 0.84×0.6 inch.

MONARCHA LESSONI, *Homb. et Jacq.*

A nest of this species taken at Ovalau by Mr. J. A. Boyd, is cup-shaped, outwardly composed of shreds of bark and mosses, and neatly lined inside with dried grasses and very fine fibrous roots ; external diameter two inches and a-half, depth two inches ; internal diameter one inch and three quarters, depth one inch and a-half. Eggs three in number for a sitting, oval in form, white, with a broad band of very minute bright reddish spots. Length (A), 0.71×0.57 inch ; (B), 0.74×0.54 inch ; (C), 0.73×0.57 inch.

MUNIA MELAENA, *Sclat.*

This bird was found breeding freely at New Britain by Mr. Parkinson, who obtained a number of specimens as well as the eggs. Eggs six in number for a sitting, oval in form, pure white. Length (A), 0.67×0.5 inch ; (B), 0.64×0.5 inch ; (C), 0.65×0.49 inch ; (D), 0.62×0.47 inch ; (E), 0.63×0.42 inch.

PITTA NOVÆ-HIBERNIÆ, *Ramsay.*

These eggs were procured and also the birds at the Duke of York group by Mr. Parkinson ; they are four in number for a sitting, varying in form from slightly swollen into lengthened ovals, of a pale creamy-white, blotched all over with irregularly-shaped markings of light purplish-brown, and obsolete spots of purplish-lilac and bluish-grey, the latter colour appearing beneath the surface of the shell. Length (A), 1.13×0.87 inch ; (B), 1.13×0.88 inch ; (C), 1.2×0.85 inch ; (D), 1.19×0.86 inch.

CALORNIS METALLICA, *Temm. ;*

(var. *nitida*, GRAY.)

Eggs closely resembling those of the Australian species (*C. metallica*), of which this bird is only an insular form. They

are from three to four in number for a sitting, varying in form from swollen to elongated ovals, of a greenish-white, minutely spotted, and heavily blotched with light purplish-red markings, chiefly towards the larger end; one specimen (A), has only a few indistinct spots on the larger end. Length (A), 0.97×0.77 inch; (B), 1.09×0.76 inch; (C), 1.09×0.73 inch.

From the Duke of York Island.

PHILEMON COCKERELLI, *Sclat.*

A very handsome set of eggs procured, together with the birds, by Mr. Parkinson at New Britain, are in form pointed ovals, of a deep reddish salmon colour, heavily blotched all over with irregularly-shaped markings of a darker tint, but more particularly towards the larger end, intermingled with others of a light purplish-grey, which appear as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length (A), 1.31×0.93 inch; (B), 1.38×0.93 inch; (C), 1.34×0.94 inch.

CINNYRIS CORINNA, *Salvad.*

A nest of this species taken at New Britain, is a dome-shaped structure with a small entrance in the side, over which a hood is formed, from the top of which the nest gently tapers to a point; it is outwardly composed of the dried skeletons of leaves, bark fibre and spiders' webs neatly woven together, and lined inside with the white down from the seeds of a cotton plant; it is attached to the thin stems of a climbing plant, and measures as follows—total length of nest nine inches, height of aperture one inch and a-half, width one inch, length from top of the nest to lower portion of the hood four inches and a-half, from the lower portion of the entrance to the extremity of nest three inches; width two inches and a-half.

The eggs were two in number, of a light greenish-grey richly covered with minute markings of wood-brown, which at the larger end form a broad clouded zone. Length (A), 0.67×0.46 inch; (B), 0.65×0.45 inch.

CENTROPUS ATERALBUS, *Less.*

Specimens of this bird, together with a single egg, were received from Mr. Parkinson when at New Britain. Egg dull white, shell slightly roughened. Long axis 1.6 inch, short axis 1.23 inch.

ECLECTUS POLYCHLORUS, Scop.

An egg of this species in the Australian Museum Collection, taken by Mr. Goldie in New Guinea, on the 26th of April, 1880, is pure white, rather pointed at the end, the shell being slightly rough, and without any gloss. Length 1·7 inch \times 1·7 inch in breadth.

CARPOPHAGA LATRANS, Peel.

Eggs of this species taken by Mr. Boyd at Ovalau, are oval in form swelling gradually towards the centre, pure white, shell smooth without any gloss. Long diameter 1·77 inch; short diameter 1·28 inch.

CHRYSOENA LUTEOVIRENS, Homb. et Jacq.

Eggs two in number for a sitting, white, elongated in form. Length (A), 1·26 \times 0·85 inch; (B), 1·32 \times 0·83 inch. Taken at Ovalau by Mr. Boyd.

PTILOPUS MARIE, Gray.

Two eggs of this species taken at Ovalau by Mr. Boyd, are in form elongated ovals, pure white. Length (A), 1·26 \times 0·86 inch; (B), 1·15 \times 0·81 inch.

DEMIEGRETTA SACRA, Gmel.

Eggs of this species are of a uniform pale greenish-white. Length 1·95 \times 1·3 inch. Taken by Mr. Boyd at Ovalau on the 1st of September, 1879.

ARDEA JAVANICA, Horsf.

An egg of this bird taken at Ovalau, is oval in form, of a pale bluish-green. Length 1·45 \times 1·05 inch.

PHLEGOENAS STAIRI, Gray.

This species, which feeds so largely upon chilies that its flesh is scarcely palatable, lays one egg only, pure white, elongated in form. Length 1·22 \times 0·9 inch. Taken at Ovalau, November 11th, 1879.

IANTHENAS VITIENSIS, Quoy et Gaim.

Eggs of this species taken by Mr. J. A. Boyd at Ovalau, are pure white, in form of a lengthened oval, the texture of the shell being fine, and the surface slightly glossy. Long diameter 1·6 inch ; short diameter 1·15 inch.

AMAUORNIS MOLUCCANA, Wallace.

A set of the eggs of this species, taken by Mr. Parkinson while at New Britain, are oval in form, of a dull white thickly spotted with small irregularly-shaped reddish-chestnut markings, intermingled with others of a deep bluish-grey appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell, which predominate chiefly towards the larger end. Length (A), $1\cdot57 \times 1\cdot15$ inch ; (B), $1\cdot64 \times 1\cdot15$ inch ; (C), $1\cdot6 \times 1\cdot17$ inch ; (D), $1\cdot67 \times 1\cdot14$ inch ; (E), $1\cdot65 \times 1\cdot16$ inch.

Specimens of the birds were also procured at the time of taking the eggs.

GALLINULA RUFICRISSA, Gould.

A single egg of this species in the Dobroyde Collection, is of a dull white ground colour, finely freckled all over with light chestnut-red markings, a few nearly obsolete spots of the same colour appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell more particularly towards the larger end. Long axis 1·6 inch, short axis 1·2 inch.

TADORNA RADJAH, Garnot.

A set of the eggs of this species taken from the hollow branch of a tree, are five in number, of a rich creamy-white, the texture of the shell being fine and the surface smooth. Length (A), 2·2 inches \times 1·63 inch ; (B), 2·2 inches \times 1·58 inch ; (C), 2·2 inches \times 1·59 inch ; (D), 2·13 inches \times 1·61 inch ; (E), 2·17 \times 1·58 inch. (*Dob. Mus.*)

(*To be continued*)